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LONDON FOR GURNEY
PARIS FOR NEARY

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MOFS](#) [XY](#) [LI](#) [NI](#)
SUBJECT: NIGERIA: ECOWAS REPORT WILL NOT CONTAIN FALSE
ACCUSATIONS ABOUT THE US AND UK

REF: STATE 126028

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR HOWARD F. JETER. REASON 1.5 (B) and (D).

11. (C) During a July 3 meeting, Ambassador Jeter raised reftel points with ECOWAS Acting Executive Secretary (Deputy Executive Secretary for Economic

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Integration) Mame Sen, and Colonel Dixon Dikio, Military Advisor to the Executive Secretary. Both Executive Secretary Chambas and Deputy Executive Secretary for Political Affairs Diarra had left

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Nigeria and were in route to Durban for the OAU/AU Summit.

12. (C) Sen expressed surprise at the allegations of collusion with the LURD. He had not seen the actual report but received an oral briefing from the ECOWAS Representative in Monrovia and these allegations were not mentioned during the briefing. The more informed Dikio acknowledged the field report from the assessment team that visited Monrovia mentioned "it was possible that Guinea, the UK and US were supporting the LURD." However, Dikio assured us that this charge was not contained in the condensed report the Secretariat prepared and sent to ECOWAS Chairman, Senegalese President Wade.

13. (C) Dikio explained that the assessment team's mandate was to collect information from various sources in Liberia and make a comprehensive report to the Secretariat. The team interviewed a wide range of contacts including GOL officials, opposition leaders, religious leaders, members of civil society groups, etc. While the team was to gather information, the Secretariat's role was to weigh the credibility of the

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information before submission to the Heads of State. Thus, the subject allegations never reflected the views of the ECOWAS Secretariat, he stressed; instead, in reporting the allegations the team was reporting what it had heard while in Liberia. Dikio stated that both Chambas and he recognized the import and sensitivity of the accusations. Moreover, since the field report did not cite any corroborating evidence or attribute the allegations to a credible source, they gave the charges little weight and decided to expunge them from the Secretariat's final report. However, just to be sure, Chambas raised the issue with the UK Deputy High Commissioner. Once Chambas heard the UK's denial, he was convinced the allegations should be excised from the report. Convinced by the UK denial, Chambas saw no reason to raise this with the US, Dikio recalled. Dikio assured the Ambassador that ECOWAS would never allow such a serious allegation to pass, given the close relationship that exists between ECOWAS and the Embassy and the close personal relationship between the Executive Secretary and the Ambassador.

14. (C) Promotion of better relations between the Mano River States was another reason the allegations did not survive the editing process. Dikio mentioned that Guinean and Sierra Leonean diplomats in Monrovia stated that relations with the GOL were improving and underscored that care must be taken not to rock the boat. Dikio stated that even President Taylor had remarked to the assessment team about an upswing in the bilateral relationship with Guinea. To preserve and nurture this trend, the Secretariat felt it would be better not to pass to ECOWAS Heads of State

unsubstantiated allegations about Guinea being a
conduit of support to the LURD.

JETER